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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Oldest Civilization of Greece.* By H. R. HALL. (London : David Nutt; Philadelphia : Lippincott. 1901. Pp. xxxv, 346.)

THIS is a series of "Studies of the Mycenæan Age," expanded from the notes of a scholar who as assistant in the British Museum has had exceptional control of the literature and monuments pertaining to the "Mycenæan Question." It is intended to be of use "both to the scientific archaeological student and to the layman who interests himself in the most fascinating search which ever yet allured the seeker after forgotten history — the search for the origins of Greek civilization." It is not a comprehensive manual, but presupposes familiarity with Perrot and Chipiez's *Histoire de l'Art*, Schuchhardt's *Schliemann's Excavations*, and Tsountas and Manatt's *Mycenæan Age*. It has seventy-five carefully selected and well-executed illustrations, some twenty of which are new.

The text forms an admirable guide, either for the tyro or the specialist somewhat bewildered by the mass of his evidences, through the mazes of this difficult subject. In the purely archaeological parts of the book the author is fully alive to the uncertainty of much of the evidence adduced, and does not press conclusions beyond the tentative stage. In the vexed and vexing questions of ethnography he is fairly conservative, but without bigotry. There are "Aryans" still, but the Hellenes are not pure Aryans, any more than the Chaldæans were pure Semites. And the "Pelasgians" are neither the "be all and the end all" in Mycenæan origins, as Professor Ridgeway would have us think, nor the myth of Eduard Meyer.

Mr. Hall's general conclusions may perhaps be summed up very briefly as follows: Greek civilization was as far removed as possible from being *sui generis*, since the Aegean basin was the natural meeting place for Eastern and Western influences. But the "Mycenæan" civilization was Greek in origin and general character, in spite of strong Oriental influences. It was "chiefly identified" with the Achæan Hellenes, though there were "Mycenæan" peoples who were not Achæan, or even Greek. The beginnings of the "Mycenæan" culture were probably præ-Achæan, or "Pelasgic." But towards the end of the third millennium B. C., the various tribes of "Pelasgians" were slowly reduced to the position of a subject race by Hellenic tribes from the north. A mixed race resulted, and a remarkable increment in culture; whereas the later and similar incursion of Hellenes from the north which we call the "Dorian invasion" was followed by a sudden decline in culture.

"All the præ-Hellenic tribes of Asia Minor, the Ægean, and Greece proper seem to have belonged to a single un-Aryan race" (p. 101), and to this race the "Pelasgians" are to be assigned. Indeed, for lack of a better term to connote this dark-haired, dolichocephalous race of the Ægean basin, Mr. Hall would prefer "Pelasgian" to "Iberian" or "Mediterranean." Toward such a conclusion as this many a bewildered student of Greek origins must have been slowly making his uncertain way, and he has been helped forward on that way by the very errors of Professor Ridgeway's somewhat erratic book.

The earlier period of the "Mycenæan Age," when Crete was the center of culture and power, is probably præ-Aryan, or "Pelasgian"; in the later period, when Argolis was the center of culture and power, the Aryan invaders from the north had assumed control. But of course this must be merely our working hypothesis until further light from the Cretan excavations modifies or confirms it.

B. PERRIN.

*Mediæval and Modern History.* By P. V. N. MYERS. Part I., The Middle Ages. (Boston: Ginn and Co. 1902. Pp. x, 454.)

THIS is a very thorough revision of Myers's *Mediæval and Modern History*, Part I., which appeared some sixteen years ago. Much of the text has been rewritten, and while the actual increase in length has not been great, valuable changes in emphasis have been made, errors corrected, and important material added; lists of references have been appended to the chapters; the sections have been numbered and numerous cross-references inserted.

The general impression gained from a comparison of the two books is that the author's knowledge of some important portions of his subject has increased considerably in the interval, while he displays throughout a somewhat more critical and scholarly spirit. In the present work, as in the former, he is strongest where he is dealing with the purely narrative and the cultural sides of history and weakest in whatever has to do with the origin and development of institutions. The best thing in the present work is the chapter on the Renaissance with its appended bibliography; most of it is new and in its fullness is a trifle out of proportion to the rest of the work. For a very brief account of the Renaissance it is one of the best to be found. On the other hand such statements as the following are certainly either very misleading or positively wrong: that the Germans' love of political freedom led them to "set up" feudalism in all the countries of which they took possession (p. 9); that modern parliaments are probably derived "from the general assemblies of the free Teutonic warriors" (pp. 9-10); that the transition from private vengeance to public authority was made when we first know the Germans (p. 67); that the "germs of feudalism" lay in Charlemagne's governmental system (p. 126); while in English history the author speaks of the Salisbury oath as an entire innovation (p. 195), the impression is certainly given that the principle of no taxation without representation is in